

Attachment E:

**Summary of Testimony on the August 2, 2010 Planning Commission Draft
Of the Municipal Growth Element
Of the City of Rockville's Comprehensive Master Plan**

Acronyms Used

MGE - Municipal Growth Element

CGES - College Gardens Elementary School

RMHS – Richard Montgomery High School

APFO - Adequate Public Services Ordinance

CI – Chinese Immersion

PYP - Primary Years Program (the elementary school equivalent of the International Baccalaureate program) at Richard Montgomery

MCPS - Montgomery County Public Schools

CIP - Capital Improvements Program

Speakers at 9/13/10 Public Hearing	Summary of Testimony	Implication for MGE Document
1) Cindy Bar Attorney, Holland & Knight, on behalf of Tower-Dawson, LLC, developer of Tower Oaks Exhibit 6 is written testimony from Ms. Barr and William Kominers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourages investment in infrastructure in collaboration with the County. - Supports the document's identification of the Tower Oaks site as one of the areas for future growth. - Agrees that mixed-use development is the major direction for development in the City. - Hopes that the City will use its Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) as a helpful tool for managing growth, rather than as an impediment to growth. - Encourages the City to work with the County to address the lack of school capacity. - Hopes that the City leadership will promote economic vitality, by fostering and embracing necessary growth, not hampering it. 	None

<p>2) Andrea Hall 1515 Columbia Avenue Rockville, MD 20850 Speaking on behalf of a group of residents of College Gardens and Woodley Gardens neighborhoods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expresses concern about excessive enrollment in CGES and the RMHS Cluster as a whole relative the program capacity and suggests reasons that this is occurring. - Suggests potential remedies, including the City of Rockville enforcing its own occupancy codes, but also asking the Board of Education to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Immediately require CGES or a neutral third party to verify the residency of all CGES students o Undertake a boundary study to determine whether the boundaries for CGES need to be redrawn. o Revise and accelerate CIP for classroom additions at CGES and/or building on property set aside for a school at King Farm. o Consider other options within MCPS control, including but not limited to, transferring any special programs, such as Chinese Immersion, to another less-crowded school. 	<p>See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.</p>
<p>3) Christopher Kelly West End resident, RM Parent, RMPTSA officer, RM Cluster Coordinator) Written testimony is Exhibit 4, which matches his oral testimony.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Richard Montgomery's (RM) tri-level IB program attracts families from outside City limits to the cluster, expanding the student population. - Increases in enrollment in RM cluster will cause the cluster to be placed in a housing moratorium. - Commends the revised Planning Commission Draft for including a more thorough discussion of the current school enrollment situation and serious overcapacity situation. - Agrees with the recommendations on the School Section in the MGE. - Encourages Mayor and Council to use MGE effort to begin a formal dialogue with the County on long-range growth and its impact on schools. - Encourages Mayor and Council to maintain school enrollment issues as a priority and take proactive steps with the County and Board of Education to ensure that needed school construction within RM cluster, be undertaken as soon as possible, and coordinate the MCPS CIP with the City's growth patterns. - Requests that RM PTA cluster representatives be included in discussions with the school board. 	<p>Supports current language as revised during the Planning Commission process.</p> <p>See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.</p>

4) Crista Oehler 2 Duke Court, Rockville, MD 20850	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Because of overcrowding, children do not eat until 1:30 - Suggests removing extra programs, such as Chinese Immersion, to a less crowded school - Hardship transfer cases enrolled in CGES should be checked. 	See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.
5) Susan Caster Potomac Woods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thanks the Mayor and Council and the Planning Commission for identifying the relationship between growth and Schools. - All schools are well over capacity; children spend more time in portable classrooms. - MCPS must approve construction of new schools in 2012 CIP now. - There has been a significant increase in students from Park Potomac in Rockville Schools. - Questions the assumption that multifamily units do not generate student populations. 	See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.
6) Laura Bethiaume , Member of the Board of Education at MCPS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteered to work with the Mayor and Council and to facilitate any “fact finding” meeting with the School Board. - Discussed that solutions are complicated but offered assistance. 	See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.
7) Lynn Perry Parker 7 East Argyle Rockville, MD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disagreed with the idea of moving the special programs from schools. - The economy has forced many families to move from private to public schools. - Another ES will not solve the Julius West Middle School problem, which is at overcapacity as well. 	See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.

The transcript of the September 13 Public Hearing is included as Attachment A

The Written Testimony through September 28, 5:00 pm is provided as Attachment B

Written Testimony submitted	Summary of Testimony	Implication for MGE Document
Exhibit 1: Benita S. Cohen 6 South Duke St.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elementary school children, including her child, are facing hardships and stressful situations as a result of overcrowding. - Overcrowding comes from generational changes, residents moving from north side of Redland Road to the south of King Farm, and children from other counties. - City should enforce its own zoning ordinances and building occupancy codes. - Mayor and Council should ask the Board of Education to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Verify the residency of all College Gardens ES students; o Undertake a boundary study to determine whether the boundaries for CGES need to be redrawn; o Revise and accelerate the Capital Improvement Plan for classroom additions at CGES and/or building on property set aside for a school at King Farm; and o Consider other options within MCPS control, including, but not limited to, transferring any special programs, such as Chinese Immersion, to another, less-crowded school. 	See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.
Exhibit 2: Resolution of Twinbrook ES PTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Because of over-crowding at Twinbrook ES, a significant number of portables serving as classrooms, historically inaccurate forecasts of student enrollment, cluster-wide enrollment being over capacity, and for other reasons, the PTA resolved the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The PTAs commend City Planning staff and the Planning Commission for revising the public schools discussion in the draft MGE to reflect accurately the current overcapacity situation at Ritchie Park, Twinbrook ES and other schools, and for suggesting that planning and investment reflect both current and future needs. o The PTAs support the request that MCPS develop a methodology that will more accurately predict future MCPS enrollment so that schools 	See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.

	<p>will not continue to be over their program capacities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The PTAs support the conclusion of the August 2010 Draft MGE that “Rockville children should not be forced to continually attend schools whose enrollment exceeds capacity.” ○ The PTAs urge the Mayor and Council to maintain school enrollment issues as a priority and to take proactive steps, including communication with the MCPS Board of Education and the Montgomery County Council to ensure that needed construction within the RM Cluster will be undertaken as quickly as possible. 	
<p>Exhibit 3: Resolution of Ritchie Park ES PTA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Because of over-crowding at Ritchie Park ES, a significant number of portables serving as classrooms, historically inaccurate forecasts of student enrollment, cluster-wide enrollment being over capacity, and for other reasons, the PTA resolved the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The PTAs commend City Planning staff and the Planning Commission for revising the public schools discussion in the draft MGE to reflect accurately the current overcapacity situation at Ritchie Park, Twinbrook ES and other schools, and for suggesting that planning and investment reflect both current and future needs. ○ The PTAs support the request that MCPS develop a methodology that will more accurately predict future MCPS enrollment so that schools will not continue to be over their program capacities. ○ The PTAs support the conclusion of the August 2010 Draft MGE that “Rockville children should not be forced to continually attend schools whose enrollment exceeds capacity.” ○ The PTAs urge the Mayor and Council to maintain school enrollment issues as a priority and to take proactive steps, including communication with the MCPS Board of Education and the Montgomery County Council to ensure that needed construction within the RM Cluster will be undertaken as quickly as possible. 	<p>See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.</p>

Exhibit 4: Christopher Kelly West End resident, RM Parent, RMPTSA officer, RM Cluster Coordinator)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussed above under Public Hearing Speaker #3 	See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.
Exhibit 5: Ruth Migler 9 Pitt Court CGES Parent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resident of College Gardens with 4th Grader in CGES. - Concerned about rapid and unforeseen level of growth in population in school. - The Mayor and Council should ask the Board of Education to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Immediately require CGES or a neutral third party to verify the residency of all CGES students o Undertake a boundary study to determine whether the boundaries for CGES need to be redrawn. o Revise and accelerate CIP for classroom additions at CGES and/or building on property set aside for a school at King Farm. o Consider other options within MCPS control, including but not limited to, transferring any special programs, such as Chinese Immersion, to another less-crowded school. 	See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.
Exhibit 6: Cindy Barr and William Kominers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussed above under Public Hearing Speaker #1 	None
Exhibit 7: Andrea Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussed above under Public Hearing Speaker #2 	See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.
Exhibit 8: Marc Grossman 1316 Okinawa Ave Rockville, MD 20851	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports the resolution passed by Twinbrook PTSA - Discourages overcrowding in schools. - Portable classrooms are not conducive to learning. - Additional kids will be generated as a result of new development in Twinbrook Commons, in already overcrowded schools. 	See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Twinbrook ES is already burdened with challenges such as poverty and mobility rates, a large percent of English as a second language population. Overcrowding will further exacerbate the issues, and impact property prices. 	
Exhibit 9: Alexandra Concaugh 1602 Auburn Avenue Rockville, MD, 20850	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CGES is overcrowded, almost 100% overcapacity, and 3rd graders do not eat until 1:30pm, half-hour before school lets out. Rockville elementary schools bearing a disproportionate share of Montgomery County's School growth. - Although the APFO will lead to a construction moratorium based on school capacity, which is essential, it will not address aspects of school growth that are happening now. - Aspects include generational changes, residents moving from North side of Redland Road to the south in King Farm to allow their kids to attend CGES, CGES having the only IB/PYP program, an increase in the number of young families with small children living in multifamily units, and, in some cases, families doubling up in single-family units. - Many believe that parents are using false addresses to allow kids to attend CGES. - City of Rockville must enforce zoning ordinance to ensure only one family resides in each single-family unit and other rental units in the cluster. - The Mayor and Council should ask the Board of Education to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Immediately require CGES or a neutral third party to verify the residency of all CGES students o Undertake a boundary study to determine whether the boundaries for CGES need to be redrawn. o Revise and accelerate CIP for classroom additions at CGES and/or building on property set aside for a school at King Farm. o Consider other options within MCPS control, including but not limited to, transferring any special programs, such as Chinese Immersion, to another less-crowded school. 	See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.

<p>Exhibit 10: Crista Oehler 2 Duke Court, Rockville, MD 20850</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - College Gardens neighborhood resident. Two sons attend CGES. - CGES is overcrowded, almost 100% overcapacity, and 3rd graders do not eat until 1:30pm, half-hour before school lets out. Rockville elementary schools bearing a disproportionate share of Montgomery County's School growth. - Although the APFO will lead to a construction moratorium based on school capacity, which is essential, it will not address aspects of school growth that are happening now. - Aspects include generational changes, residents moving from North side of Redland Road to the south in King Farm to allow their kids to attend CGES, CGES having the only IB/PYP program, an increase in the number of young families with small children living in multifamily units, and, in some cases, families doubling up in single-family units. - Many believe that parents are using false addresses to allow kids to attend CGES. - City of Rockville must enforce zoning ordinance to ensure only one family resides in each single-family unit and other rental units in the cluster. - The Mayor and Council should ask the Board of Education to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Immediately require CGES or a neutral third party to verify the residency of all CGES students o Undertake a boundary study to determine whether the boundaries for CGES need to be redrawn. o Revise and accelerate CIP for classroom additions at CGES and/or building on property set aside for a school at King Farm. o Consider other options within MCPS control, including but not limited to, transferring any special programs, such as Chinese Immersion, to another less-crowded school. 	<p>See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.</p>
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<p>Exhibit 11: Emily Serway 1526 Baylor Ave</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - College Gardens resident, with children in CGES & JWMS. - CGES, a two-year-old school is already at overcapacity, and warrants a school-boundary redistricting study based on current MCPS guidelines (92 students over capacity). - Overcrowding is a potential hazard during an emergency situation. - Rockville elementary schools are bearing a disproportionate share of MCPS growth. While 8 school clusters in MCPS exceed 105% of capacity, only the RM cluster exceeds 120% of capacity. A housing moratorium will be in place beginning next year in the RM cluster. While this helps with future growth, current aspects of growth are not addressed. - Generational changes and residents moving from North side of Redland Road to the south in King Farm to allow their kids to attend CGES exacerbates the overcrowding problems. - Applauds the City decision to deny waiver sought by MCPS, which would have allowed portables at CGES. - Consider moving special programs to other schools. - City needs to work with MCPS for better planning of long-range growth. - Suggests possibility of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Moving special programs out of schools that are more than 20% over capacity. o Have special programs be available only for students within the specific-school district. 	<p>See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.</p>
<p>Exhibit 12:</p>	<p>N/A – Inadvertent numbering of previously noted testimony.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Exhibit 13: Richard E. Edelman Co-Cluster Coordinator, Wootton High School Cluster</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wootton Cluster PTAs/PTSAs agree with RM Cluster PTAs/PTSAs that population growth has a significant impact on school facilities - City and County planning must consider impact of population growth and new development on schools’ ability to serve children. - Wootton HS has been over-crowded for many years. - Concerned about future growth, particularly the “Science City” development, which is expected to have a significant impact in the 	<p>See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.</p>

	<p>Wootton Cluster.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students from substantial new developments should not be added to Wootton Cluster schools if they will increase student populations above current levels, regardless of whether the tracts of land involved are within the present geographic boundaries of the Cluster. - They oppose any boundary change that would remove any established neighborhood/community from the Cluster in order to accommodate students from new developmens. - Urges the City of Rockville to adopt a policy that recognizes that additional residential growth is likely to have an adverse impact on schools. 	
<p>Exhibit 14: Sharon Burke CGES Parent</p>	<p>Requests City Council to make informed decisions based on accurate data. Summary of comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CGES is slightly over-capacity, it is better off than most elementary schools in the city of Rockville and in Montgomery County. Using the latest published statistics, CGES is 7% over capacity, while other elementary schools are up to 77% over capacity. CGES, like every Rockville elementary school, is <u>less</u> crowded than the county average. - The College Gardens Chinese Immersion program is not over-capacity nor does it contribute to unexpected increases in enrollment at CGES. When College Gardens Elementary was rebuilt in 2007, it was built with the Chinese Immersion program in mind. Class space was specifically added to the building and set aside for the program. The immersion program's enrollment size is capped and is, therefore, a predictable quantity, within capacity. - Special programs raise property values - Moving Chinese Immersion will cost significantly more in transportation costs. - CGES's lunch times are comparable to schedules at other schools. 	<p>See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.</p>

<p>Exhibit 15: Mark and Jennifer Whalen Parents of CI Students</p>	<p>Thanks the Mayor and Council for addressing the current and future overcapacity issues in the RM cluster in the draft MGE. Look forward to feedback from Laura Berthiaume.</p> <p>Please consider the following points in your discussions regarding the Chinese Immersion program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CGES was reconstructed with the anticipation that there would be Chinese Immersion, Autism, and IB programs. As a result, classrooms were built to accommodate for these special programs. - Chinese Immersion only allows a limited number of students from around the county into its lottery-based program. Currently, enrollment is under capacity at 86% full. - Of those that are enrolled in Chinese Immersion, many students in the program are in fact, home school students. - Because Chinese Immersion is a countywide program, locating the program in Rockville is a central mid-point for all county residents. - The Chinese Immersion and other special programs at CGES are assets to the City of Rockville. Because of the popularity of these programs, the property values in the surrounding neighborhoods are enhanced. By removing the programs, the property values would most likely decline. 	<p>See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.</p>
<p>Exhibit 16: Nataly Phuong</p>	<p>Supports the Chinese Immersion Program at CGES.</p>	<p>See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.</p>
<p>Exhibit 17: Natalie Vankos and Michael Jones 12 Pitt Court Rockville, MD 20850</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the Chinese Immersion Program, which is valuable to both the school and the community. - CGES was built to accommodate the CI program. Many families moved to the school district and the City of Rockville after their children were accepted into the program. - Other options to alleviate overcrowding must be looked into rather than the removal of Chinese Immersion from CGES. 	<p>See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.</p>

<p>Exhibit 18: Judy Tso Parent of CI student</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The CI program only has an enrollment of 25 students per grade and given that the new College Gardens facility was built with the CI program in mind, overcrowding cannot be blamed on the CI program. - Population growth in the cluster has led to overcrowding. Others clusters are having similar overcapacity problems. - Personally offended at some comments that relate to anti-diversity and anti-Asian hysteria, as a person of Asian descent. - Urges the Council to preserve the CI program in its current location, and embrace diversity and the concepts of a democratic society. 	<p>See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.</p>
<p>Exhibit 19: Antoinette A. Parsons Parent of CI students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School is not overcrowded because of CI program. The CI program contributions to school are overwhelming in terms of academics, PYP, and cultural events. - Overcrowding is a result of population increase in the cluster and not the CI program. 	<p>See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.</p>
<p>Exhibit 20:Linda Hickey Parent of CI students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support of Chinese Immersion Program. - CGES was rebuilt in 2007, to include the Immersion programs. Since the immersion program only lets in a limited number of students, the immersion population is within its planned size, not over capacity, and not causing CGES to be over capacity. Furthermore, many CI students come from within the CGES boundary. - CGES is slightly over-capacity, but still has it better than any other school in Rockville and better than most in the county. Schools at or under capacity accommodate other special programs instead, such as substantially increased ESOL and Farms populations. - Other schools have portables as well. The College Gardens community needs to address this issue with MCPS, and not single out the CI program. - Special school programs improve property values for the entire neighborhood. The Chinese Immersion program is a draw to the school as well as the IB program. - CI students share transportation with students attending other nearby 	<p>See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.</p>

	special programs; separate transportation would be a substantial cost. Also many CI students are currently within CGES boundaries and don't require special transportation but would if the program moved.	
Exhibit 21: Charles Williamson Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the CI program at CGES. - College Gardens was specially designed as a magnet school to accommodate the Chinese Immersion Program, and is ideally located at a central spot in the county to host the program. - The program enhances the appeal of the International Baccalaureate program and focuses attention and funding on College Gardens as an elite school. - The program attracts an additional countywide base of committed parents eager to contribute to the school. - Rockville should feel privileged to have such an elite educational program. - Education is the engine that drives Montgomery County's economy, and any effort by local parents to "dumb down" the county curriculum should be strongly discouraged. - Such programs can prepare children to confront the challenges of the 21st century. 	See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.
Exhibit 22: Virginia Hulme 603 Azalea Drive #1 Rockville, MD 20850 Parent of CI Student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support Chinese Immersion at College Gardens, and other special programs. Special programs are assets to local schools. - Since College Gardens is the home school for many of the Chinese Immersion students moving the Chinese Immersion program would not do much to reduce College Gardens' enrollment. Encourage MCPS to open similar programs in other schools to accommodate population growth. - On the subject of school expansion/construction, offers two comments in response to other comments made at the meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Supports the idea of an elementary school for King Farm o Supports John Britton's comment about building schools 	See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.

	<p>vertically.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Questions some of the testimony on September 13, because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o When CGES was rebuilt in 2007, classrooms were specifically added to the building for the programs. The immersion population is within its planned size, not over capacity, and not causing CGES to be over capacity. Furthermore, many CI students come from within the CGES boundary. o CGES is slightly over-capacity, but still has it better than any other school in Rockville and better than most in the county. Schools at or under capacity accommodate other special programs instead, such as substantially increased ESOL and Farms populations. o Special school programs improve property values for the entire neighborhood. o CI students share transportation with students attending other nearby special programs; separate transportation would be a substantial cost. Also many CI students are currently within CGES boundaries and don't require special transportation but would if the program moved. 	
<p>Exhibit 23: Anne C. Madeo Parent of CI student</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resident of Croydon Park neighborhood, where Maryvale ES is the home school. Older son attends Chinese Immersion Program at CGES, and she expects younger child to do so as well. - Supports the CI program at CGES. The CI program does not exceed its enrollment capacity and is not a contributor to the over-capacity enrollment, a school that was built to accommodate the program. - These programs contribute to the excellence of Rockville schools and the property values. - A solution to illegally parked cars is to increase police presence during school start and release hours. Many MCPS elementary schools are overcrowded and this situation is not unique to CGES or Rockville 	<p>See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.</p>

	<p>neighborhoods so moving special programs is not a reasonable or long-term solution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unaware of any data that supports claims regarding generational changes, families doubling up and parents moving from north of Redland Boulevard to south of it to attend CGES. - Short and long term solutions need to be devised on the basis of facts, not speculation, and with a broader understanding of school enrollment projections across the county, not simply within Rockville. 	
<p>Exhibit 32: Jack Leiderman Rockville, MD *Note – Exhibit numbering was placed later, though testimony was received well before 9/28/10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assumptions of MF student generation rates inaccurate. - Affordable housing units must conform to City APFO standards. 	<p>See Agenda memorandum for staff recommendation on school matters.</p>

Testimony Received from Other Agencies

Name	Summary of Testimony	Implication for MGE Document
Richard Bowers Fire Chief Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services Received on 8/25/2010 Attachment C	The comments are hand written edits on the “Fire and Emergency Services” section.	Staff agrees with the comments and recommends inclusion of the edits into the document.
Francis Carrier , Chair, Montgomery County Planning Board Isiah Leggett , County Executive Montgomery County Attachment D	Both the County Executive and the Montgomery County Planning Board objected to the inclusion of the area around the Shady Grove Metro Station in the City’s Maximum Expansion Limits and to the extension on the south beyond Montrose Road. They had no objection to the City’s newly including three properties along Shady Grove Road – the United States Post Office, Great Indoors and the vacant Casey 3 property. The Planning Commission voted to extend the MEL to Montrose Parkway, but to remove the portion around Executive Boulevard; and to keep the entire area near the Shady Grove Metro Station, including the three listed properties.	Complying with these objections would result in a reduction of the MEL area proposed in the Planning Commission draft.